

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO USIA WSHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3574

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 TAIPEI 7124/1

USIAC

FOR: IOP/MEDIA REACTION; IEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TW

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT

1. SUMMARY - TAIPEI PRESS GAVE PROMINENT NEWS COVERAGE AND EDITORIAL COMMENT COMMUNIQUE SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PEKING VISIT. KMT'S OFFICIAL CENTRAL DAILY NEWS SAID PRESIDENT FORD'S SCHEDULED PEKING VISIT ONLY SUBSTANTIVE RESULT. INFLUENTIAL CHINA TIMES AGREED BUT WARNED SPECULATED TENG HSIAO-PING WASHINGTON VISIT BEARS CLOSE WATCHING. PAPERS CARRIED MOFA SPOKESMAN COMMENT: "GROC HAS REPEATEDLY MADE KNOWN FIRM STAND ON VARIOUS CONTACTS BETWEEN U.S. AND CHINESE COMMUNIST REGIME. THIS STAND REMAINS UNCHANGED." END SUMMARY.

2. KMT'S OFFICIAL CENTRAL DAILY NEWS (220,000) SAID PRESIDENT FORD'S SCHEDULED VISIT PEIPING 1975 ONLY SUBSTANCE COMMUNIQUE SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT. PAPER SAID KISSINGER WENT PEIKING EXPLAIN VLADIVOSTOK MEETING, HOPING MINIMIZE UNCLASSIFIED

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MAOIST ANXIETY AND DISSUADE MAOIST RADICALS TAKING U.S.-

RUSSIAN MEETING AS EXCUSE "BLIND" ADVENTURE IN INTERNAL CHINA STRUGGLE. KISSINGER ALSO WANTED CLOSEUP VIEW TRUE PICTURE MAOIST POWER STRUGGLE. REITERATION SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE PLAINLY ROUTINE DIPLOMATIC MOVE BY U.S. SIDE. FORD'S 1975 VISIT NOT ORIGINALLY INCLUDED KISSINGER'S PLAN. ACCORDING NEWS LEAKS BY U.S. SIDE, MAOISTS INITIATED VISIT PROPOSAL WITH KISSINGER AGREEING AFTER OBTAINING WASHINGTON O.K. COOL ANALYSIS REVEALS MAOISTS' ANXIOUS FRIENDSHIP AND FORD'S ACCEPTANCE INVITATION REPRESENTED COINCIDING OF INTERESTS BOTH SIDES. BUT INVITATION REFLECTED MAOIST DIFFICULTIES AND CONTRADICTIONS. MAO REFUSED MEET KISSINGER THIS TIME TO SHOW PRIDE AND COOLNESS. LACK MAOIST CLAMORING OVER "TAIWAN ISSUE" ACTUALLY LOW-POSTURE DISPLAY TACIT CONSENT FACTS OF LIFE. BUT SHOULD NEVER BE TAKEN SIGN MAOISTS ABANDONING DESIGNS TAIWAN. FORD INVITATION COULD MEAN TRICKY "CIRCUITOUS OFFENSIVE" TO MOUSETRAP U.S. KMT PAPER HOPED FORD MAINTAINS LOFTY POSITION AS HEAD GREAT NATION, BE WISE ENOUGH DISTINGUISH FRIEND FROM FOE AND FIRMLY ADHERE U.S. TREATY COMMITMENTS.

3. INFLUENTIAL CHINA TIMES (280,000) AND OFFICIAL CENTRAL DAILY NEWS DECEMBER 2 REPORTED KISSINGER'S BRIEFING JAPAN'S KIMURA AS HINTING FORD 1975 PEKING VISIT WON'T PRODUCE ANYTHING STARTLING, MEANING NO RECOGNITION PRC, AS INTERPRETED BY JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES.

4. TA HUA EVENING NEWS (60,000) QUOTED TAIPEI DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAYING EXPECTED NO DEVELOPMENT U.S.-PRC RELATIONS FOLLOWING KISSINGER VISIT SINCE SITUATIONS COMMUNIST CHINA AND THROUGHOUT WORLD NO LONGER SAME AS AT TIME NIXON SIGNED SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE.

5. MOFA SPOKESMAN TOLD PAPERS: "THE GROU HAS REPEATEDLY MADE KNOWN ITS FIRM STAND ON THE VARIOUS CONTACTS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE CHINESE COMMUNIST REGIME. THIS STAND REMAINS UNCHANGED."

6. TA HUA EVENING NEWS EDITORIALY MAINTAINED THAT EVEN HEAVEN DISCUSTED WITH KISSINGER'S PEIKING DEEDS AS HE UNCLASSIFIED

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FAILED RECEIVE ECHOS FROM HANDCLAPPING IN HEAVENLY ALTAR. PAPER REFUTED GENERAL FEELINGS PEIPING SEEMED NO LONGER PUSHING HARDLINE AGAINST CONTINUING U.S. RECOGNITION OF ROC. HOW CAN MAOISTS BE ALLOWED TORPEDO TRADITIONAL ROC-U.S. FRIENDSHIP WHILE U.S. MAINTAINS ROC TREATY COMMITMENTS ON BASIS OF ITS OVERALL POLITICAL AND WAR STRATEGY RATHER THAN BASIS MAOIST PRESSURE, PAPER ASKED.

7. CHINA TIMES NOVEMBER 30 NOTED TWO IMPORTANT FACTS:

(1) BREZHNEV REJECTED MAOIST PROPOSAL FOR TROOP WITHDRAWALS AND NON-AGGRESSION PACT IMMEDIATELY AFTER FORD LEFT SOVIET UNION AND (2) TENG HSIAO-PING REVEALED TO WESTERNERS U.S. WARNED PEKING LEAST THREE TIMES LAST AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER POSSIBLE SOVIET INVASIONS BASED SATELLITE INFORMATION WHICH LED MAOISTS MAKE MILITARY PREPARATIONS. VLADIVOSTOK MEETING STRENGTHENED U.S.-USSR DETENT TO POINT MAOIST SNIPING NO LONGER EFFECTIVE. U.S.-MAOIST RELATIONS UP TO NOW NOT GONE BEYOND SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE WHICH MENTIONED AGAIN KISSINGER-CHIAO KUAN-HUA TALKS. ALL FACTS INDICATE KISSINGER VISIT ACHIEVED NOTHING MORE CONCRETE THAN FORD VISIT DECISION. EVIDENCE SHOWED KISSINGER CARRIED NO FULL MANDATE THIS TRIP. HOWEVER, SPECULATED WASHINGTON MEETING WHICH TENG HSIAO-PING MENTIONED AND TO WHICH KISSINGER CONSENTED BEARS CLOSE WATCHING. HIGH-POSITIONED MAOIST MAY BREAK GROUND FOR FORD VISIT BY VISITING WASHINGTON FIRST.

8. PAPERS DECEMBER 1 PROMINENTLY REPORTED WALTER JUDD REMARKS TO EFFECT PRESIDENT FORD SHOULD VISIT ROC.

9. NEW LIFE DAILY NEWS (60,000) LAUDED FORD'S ASIAN TOUR AS UNDOUBTEDLY FAVORABLY AFFECTING ASIA'S FUTURE. PAPER URGED MORE SUCH VISITS TO ASIA WHERE AMERICA'S BEST ALLIES AND INTERESTS LOCATED.

10. CHINA DIALY NEWS (80,000) SAID VLADIVOSTOK MEETING GREATLY CHANGED U.S.- USSR-PEIPING TRIPARTITE RELATIONS PUTTING MAOISTS DISADVANTAGEOUS POSITION.

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TO USIA WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3575
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11. INDEPENDENCE EVENING POST (40,000) NOTED AMICABLE ATMOSPHERE VLADIVOSTOK MEETING AS EVIDENCING STRENGTH U.S.-USSR DETENTE OVERRIDING MAOIST DISRUPTIVE TACTICS OR THREATS AND INDICATING PRIORITY U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS COMPARED U.S.-MAOIST TIES.

12. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE CHINA POST (30,000) NOTING SECRETARY KISSINGER "BACK FROM HELL," SAID HIS GREATEST "ACHIEVEMENT" THIS TIME WAS ARRANGING THE FORD VISIT. "... THIS, AS WE HAVE POINTED OUT BEFORE, IS CLEARLY A CONTINUATION OF RICHARD NIXON'S STUPID FOREIGN POLICY. OBSTINACY, WHICH IS INVARIABLY BORN OF IGNORANCE, IS REALLY LIKE AN INCURABLE IDSEASE. THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS CAN NEVER BE CONVERTED INTO TRUE FRIENDS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.
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AUTOCRATIC PEIPING AND DEMOCRATIC UNITED STATES CERTAINLY MAKE VERY STRANGE BEDFELLOWS. WHEN PRESIDENT FORD GOES TO RED CHINA NEXT YEAR, WE HOPE HE WILL DO HIS BEST TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE TRUE CONDITIONS ON THE CHINESE MAINLAND. IT WILL DO BOTH HIMSELF AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE A LOT OF GOOD. WHAT WE ARE AFRAID OF IS THAT THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS WILL NOT GIVE HIM ANY CHANCE TO FIND OUT THE TRUTH. IT IS HIGH TIME FOR POLICY-MAKERS IN WASHINGTON TO STOP GROPING IN THE DARK. THE MUCH-TALKED-ABOUT DETENTE BETWEEN RED CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES IS AN ELUSIVE AND DELUSIVE WILL-O'-THE-WISP."

13. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE CHINA NEWS (20,000) SAID: "WE FEAR THAT THE AMERICANS, INTENT UPON THE IDEA OF "ONE CHINA BY PEACEFUL MEANS," ARE BEING DRAWN INTO A SITUATION WHERE THEY MAY BE TEMPTED TO ACCEPT PHONY COMMUNIST PROMISES AT FACE VALUE. THE COMMUNISTS HAVE OFTEN PLEDGED TO TALK PEACE AND COEXIST PEACEFULLY. THIS COUNTRY CANNOT PREVENT

PRESIDENT FORD FROM GOING TO PEIPING. WE CAN AND SHOULD
WARN HIM OF WHAT THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS ARE UP TO. WE
CAN AND SHOULD MAKE SURE THAT THE UNITED STATES
UNDERSTANDS THE VALUES AS WELL AS THE OBLIGATIONS OF
ALLIANCE AND FRIENDSHIP WITH THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA. WE
CAN AND SHOULD INCREASE OUR ENDEAVORS TO PERSUADE THE
UNITED STATES THAT IT IS APPROACHING DEEP AND DANGEROUS
WATERS IN THE DIALOGUE WITH THE CHINESE COOMUNISTS."
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